

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method ~~for defibrillating a heart of a person~~, comprising:
determining that fibrillation is occurring in a heart of a person; and
defibrillating the heart by:
applying electrical pulses to the heart at a rate greater than about 10 Hz, with a
peak power that is less than about 100 W, [[:]] and
terminating the electrical pulses, ~~so that the heart beats without fibrillation.~~
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein applying the pulses comprises applying the pulses for at least about 100 milliseconds.
3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein applying the pulses comprises applying to the heart a total amount of electrical energy which is less than about 1 joule.
4. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein applying the pulses comprises applying a pulse having an amplitude less than about 50 mA.
5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further and comprising sensing motion of the heart, wherein applying the pulses comprises modifying a characteristic of at least some of the pulses applied to the heart responsive to the sensed motion.
6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further and comprising applying a fencing signal to the heart to inhibit propagation of an activation wave therein while applying the electrical pulses.
7. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein applying the pulses comprises applying the pulses in two or more bursts of pulses.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further and comprising pacing the heart at approximately 1 Hz while applying the electrical pulses at the rate greater than about 10 Hz.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~[[9]], wherein the peak power is less than about 10 W, and~~ wherein applying the pulses comprises applying the pulses electrical energy to the heart at a peak rate which with the peak power that is less than about 10 W.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein applying the pulses comprises applying respective signals at a plurality of sites on the heart.

12. (original) A method according to claim 11, wherein applying the signals comprises applying a first waveform at a first one of the sites and applying a second waveform, which differs from the first waveform, at a second one of the sites.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein applying the pulses comprises applying the pulses so as to induce depolarization in at least a region of the heart.

14. (original) A method according to claim 13, wherein applying the pulses comprises applying the pulses so as to induce a depolarization of substantially all excitable contractile tissue of the heart.

15. (original) A method according to claim 13, wherein applying the pulses comprises applying the pulses so as to induce substantially sustained contraction of the region lasting at least about 250 milliseconds.

16-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A method for ~~defibrillating a heart of a person~~, comprising:
determining that fibrillation is occurring in a heart of a person; and
defibrillating the heart by:
applying an electrical signal to the heart with a total energy of no more than about
1 joule, ~~joule~~; and
terminating the electrical signal, ~~so that the heart beats without fibrillation.~~
31. (original) A method according to claim 30, wherein applying the signal comprises
applying a signal having an amplitude less than about 50 mA.
32. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30, further and comprising
sensing motion of the heart, wherein applying the signal comprises modifying a
characteristic of the signal responsive to the sensed motion.
33. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30, further and comprising
applying a fencing signal to the heart to inhibit propagation of an activation wave therein
while applying the electrical signal.
34. (original) A method according to claim 30, wherein applying the signal comprises
applying the signal in two or more bursts of signal application.
35. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30, further and comprising
pacing the heart at approximately 1 Hz while applying the electrical signal.
36. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30 [[35]], wherein applying the
signal comprises applying electrical energy to the heart at a peak rate which is less than
about 100 W.

37. (original) A method according to claim 36, wherein applying the signal comprises applying electrical energy to the heart at a peak rate which is less than about 10 W.
38. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30 ~~[[35]]~~, wherein applying the signal comprises applying respective signals at a plurality of sites on the heart.
39. (original) A method according to claim 38, wherein applying the signals comprises applying a first waveform at a first one of the sites and applying a second waveform, which differs from the first waveform, at a second one of the sites.
40. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30 ~~[[35]]~~, wherein applying the signal comprises applying the signal so as to induce depolarization in at least a region of the heart.
41. (original) A method according to claim 40, wherein applying the signal comprises applying the signal so as to induce a depolarization of substantially all excitable contractile tissue of the heart.
42. (original) A method according to claim 40, wherein applying the signal comprises applying the signal so as to induce substantially sustained contraction of the region lasting at least about 250 milliseconds.
43. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30 ~~[[35]]~~, wherein applying the electrical signal comprises modifying a parameter of the signal during the application thereof.
44. (currently amended) A method according to claim 30 ~~[[35]]~~, wherein applying the signal comprises applying to the heart electrical pulses at a first frequency, and wherein terminating the electrical signal comprises reducing the frequency to a second frequency.

45. (currently amended) Apparatus for defibrillating a heart of a person, comprising:
one or more electrodes, adapted to be coupled to the heart; and
a control unit, adapted to defibrillate the heart by:
driving drive the electrodes to apply electrical pulses to the heart at a rate greater
than about 10 Hz, with a peak power that is less than about 100 W, and
terminating to terminate the electrical pulses, ~~so that the heart beats without~~
fibrillation.
46. (original) Apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the control unit is adapted to
drive the electrodes to apply the pulses for at least about 100 milliseconds.
47. (original) Apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the control unit is adapted to
drive the electrodes to apply to the heart a total amount of electrical energy which is less
than about 1 joule.
48. (original) Apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the control unit is adapted to
drive at least one of the electrodes to apply a pulse having an amplitude less than about 50
mA.
49. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 45, further and comprising a
sensor, adapted to sense motion of the heart and to convey a sensor signal responsive
thereto to the control unit, wherein the control unit is adapted to modify a characteristic of
at least some of the pulses applied to the heart responsive to the sensor signal.
50. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 45, further and comprising a
fencing electrode, adapted to be coupled to the heart, wherein the control unit is adapted
to drive the fencing electrode to apply a fencing signal to the heart to inhibit propagation
of an activation wave therein, while concurrently driving the one or more electrodes to
apply the electrical pulses.

51. (original) Apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the pulses in two or more bursts of pulses.
52. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 45, further and comprising a pacing electrode, adapted to be coupled to the heart, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the pacing electrode to pace the heart at approximately 1 Hz, while concurrently driving the one or more electrodes to apply the electrical pulses.
53. (original) Apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the one or more electrodes comprise first and second electrodes, and wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the first electrode to apply a first waveform at a first site of the heart, and is adapted to drive the second electrode to apply a second waveform, which differs from the first waveform, at a second site of the heart.
54. (canceled)
55. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 45 ~~[[54]], wherein the peak power is less than about 10 W, and~~ wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the pulses ~~such that a peak transfer rate of electrical energy to the heart with the peak power that~~ is less than about 10 W.
56. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the pulses so as to induce depolarization in at least a region of the heart.
57. (original) Apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the pulses so as to induce depolarization of substantially all excitable contractile tissue of the heart.

58. (original) Apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the pulses so as to induce substantially sustained contraction of the region lasting at least about 250 milliseconds.

59-71. (canceled)

72. (currently amended) Apparatus for defibrillating a heart of a person, comprising:
one or more electrodes, adapted to be coupled to the heart; and
a control unit, adapted to defibrillate the heart by:
driving drive the electrodes to apply an electrical signal to the heart with a total energy of no more than about 1 joule, and
terminating to terminate the electrical signal, ~~so that the heart beats without~~
fibrillation.

73. (original) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive at least one of the electrodes to apply a signal having an amplitude less than about 50 mA.

74. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 72, further ~~and~~ comprising a sensor, adapted to sense motion of the heart and to convey a sensor signal responsive thereto to the control unit, wherein the control unit is adapted to modify a characteristic of the electrical signal applied to the heart responsive to the sensor signal.

75. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 72, further ~~and~~ comprising a fencing electrode, adapted to be coupled to the heart, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the fencing electrode to apply a fencing signal to the heart to inhibit propagation of an activation wave therein, while concurrently driving the one or more electrodes to apply the electrical signal.

76. (original) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the signal in two or more bursts of signal application.

77. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 72, further and comprising a pacing electrode, adapted to be coupled to the heart, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the pacing electrode to pace the heart at approximately 1 Hz, while concurrently driving the one or more electrodes to apply the electrical signal.

78. (original) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the one or more electrodes comprise first and second electrodes, and wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the first electrode to apply a first waveform at a first site of the heart, and is adapted to drive the second electrode to apply a second waveform, which differs from the first waveform, at a second site of the heart.

79. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the signal such that a peak transfer rate of electrical energy to the heart is less than about 100 W.

80. (original) Apparatus according to claim 79, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the signal such that a peak transfer rate of electrical energy to the heart is less than about 10 W.

81. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the signal so as to induce depolarization in at least a region of the heart.

82. (original) Apparatus according to claim 81, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the signal so as to induce depolarization of substantially all excitable contractile tissue of the heart.

83. (original) Apparatus according to claim 81, wherein the control unit is adapted to drive the electrodes to apply the signal so as to induce substantially sustained contraction of the region lasting at least about 250 milliseconds.

84. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the control unit is adapted to modify a parameter of the electrical signal during the application thereof.

85. (original) Apparatus according to claim 84, wherein the control unit is adapted to reduce a frequency of the signal from a first value to a second value during application of the signal to the heart.